DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 449 865 JC 010 185

AUTHOR Rosenfeld, Stuart A.; Kingslow, Marcia E.
TITLE Advancing Opportunity in Advanced Manufacturing: The Potential of Predominantly Minority Two-Year Colleges.
ISBN ISBN-0-9636927-1-2
PUB DATE 1995-00-00
NOTE 150p.
AVAILABLE FROM Regional Technology Strategies, Inc., 205 Lloyd Street, Suite 210, Carrboro, NC 27510 ($12). Tel: 919-933-6699; Web site: http://www.rtsinc.org.
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *College Role; *Community Colleges; Educational Objectives; Employment Opportunities; *Labor Force Development; *Minority Groups; *Trade and Industrial Education; Two Year Colleges; Vocational Education

ABSTRACT

The study reported in this book investigated the capacities, capabilities, and potential of predominantly minority two-year colleges to provide a skilled workforce and assist minority-owned businesses with industrial modernization. The underlying research hypotheses are as follows: (1) certain segments of the populations are underrepresented in the ownership and management of industry and in the most technical positions; (2) community colleges are repositories of much of the skill and knowledge needed to enable U.S. companies to participate more fully in globally competitive businesses; (3) few high-quality industrial training programs and services for and relationships with industry exist among community colleges serving predominantly under represented populations; and (4) there is potential and motivation on the part of predominantly minority colleges to do more for and with industry. Reviews of the literature and national data, the survey of predominantly minority institutions, and the six case studies presented confirm the hypotheses advanced at the outset of the project. Recommendations are provided to address minority colleges' needs for greater resources and expertise, stronger credentials and relationships with industry, and increased access of minorities at all levels in high performance manufacturing. (JA)

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